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Florida House of Representatives Votes to Protect Religious Freedom, Rejects Federal Mandate

Tallahassee, Fla. – As part of a House Memorial telling Washington to stop forcing every American to purchase health insurance, the Florida House of Representatives today approved an amendment, sponsored by Representative Steve Precourt (R-Orlando), that firmly rejects the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's intrusive mandate forcing religious organizations to violate their conscience. After the amendment was approved without opposition, House Memorial 1281, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, was approved by the House.

“President Obama's intrusive mandate on religious charities, schools and hospitals infringes on the rights of all Americans to practice their faith freely,” said Representative Precourt. “I applaud the Florida House of Representatives for taking a strong stance to protect our religious freedom. If left unchecked, this misguided mandate will force many important community organizations to close their doors.”

The Obama Administration's original mandate forced all religious organizations, including churches, to pay for services that violate their religious convictions. While the administration recently announced a minor adjustment regarding churches, they have not yet provided an answer to the many religious-based organizations including charities, schools and hospitals that would not be exempt from this mandate.

The amendment sponsored by Representative Precourt noted that the federal mandate still requires “all health insurers, even those insuring religious organizations, to provide coverage for services that are contrary to the religious beliefs and practices of certain faiths.”

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